

Application No. 10/502,056

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A catalyst composition for the oxychlorination of ethylene, comprising a mixture of metal salts on a support, wherein said metal salts are applied to the support in such ratios that the catalyst composition comprises

- a) from 3 to 12% by weight of copper as copper salt,
- b) from ≥ 0 to 3% by weight of an alkaline earth metal as alkaline earth metal salt,
- c) from ≥ 0 to 3% by weight of an alkali metal as alkali metal salt,
- d) from 0.001 to 0.1% by weight of at least one metal selected from the group consisting of ruthenium, rhodium, palladium, osmium, iridium and platinum, and/or from 0.0001 to 0.1% by weight of gold, as corresponding metal salt or tetrachloroauric acid, and wherein all percentages by weight are based on the total weight of the catalyst including support material.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim 16, wherein the metal salts are selected from metal halides, metal oxyhalides or metal oxides of the respective metal and tetrachloroauric acid.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim 17, wherein the metal halides are metal chlorides of the respective metal.

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Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim 16, comprising from 0.005 to 0.05% by weight of at least one metal selected from the group consisting of ruthenium, rhodium, palladium, osmium, iridium and platinum.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim 16, comprising from 0.001 to 0.05% by weight of gold.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim 16, wherein the component d) used, is a ruthenium salt or a gold salt.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim 16, wherein the component b) used, is a magnesium salt.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim 16, wherein the component c) used, is a potassium salt.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim 16, wherein the support used, is aluminum oxide.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim 16, wherein the support has a pore volume in the range from 0.15 to 0.75 cm³/g.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The catalyst composition as claimed in claim 16, wherein the specific surface area of the support used, is in the range from 20 to 400 m²/g.

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Claim 27 (Withdrawn): A fixed-bed catalyst comprising the catalyst composition as claimed in claim 16, in the shape of hollow cylinders or annular pellets whose end faces are rounded both to the outer edge and to the edge of the central holes.

Claim 28 (Withdrawn): A process for preparing 1,2-dichloroethane, comprising oxychlorinating ethylene in the presence of a catalyst composition as claimed in claim 16.

Claim 29 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 28, which is a circulation reactor process.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 28, wherein the catalyst is used as a moving bed.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 28, wherein the catalyst is used as a fixed bed.

Claim 32 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 31, wherein the catalyst is used as a fixed bed in the form of hollow cylinders or annular pellets whose end faces are rounded both to the outer edge and to the central holes.